

## Damilola Taylor

Damilola Taylor was born on 7th December 1989 in Nigeria. All who knew him described him as a sensitive and exuberant boy who loved life and lit up the room when he walked into it with his infectious good humour and winning smile. He enjoyed sport, particularly football and was an ardent Manchester United supporter.

His sister, Gbemi suffered from a severe form of epilepsy and Damilola's ambition was to follow a career in medical research in order to find a cure for her and others like her.



In Summer 2000, in order to gain the necessary treatment for Gbemi, Damilola, his brother and mother, Gloria moved to England, settling in Peckham. His father, Richard remained in Nigeria to support the family by maintaining his Civil Service career.

Damilola began the new academic year at Oliver Goldsmith School. On 27th November 2000, Damilola set off for home from his studies at a local library, he was never to reach home alive. He bled to death after being stabbed in the leg with a broken bottle.

After 3 long trials, Damilola's killers were finally brought to Justice in 2006 and are now serving time. They were aged 12 and 13 and associated with gangs. Damilola's death raised many questions about the baseline values in our society and what leads young people to commit such acts of violence.

When Damilola was just ten years old he wrote: "I will travel far and wide to choose my destiny to remould the world. I know it is my destiny to defend the world which I hope to achieve in my lifetime". A boy with great vision would sadly never see his dreams fulfilled due to a senseless act of violence. The Damilola Taylor Trust was set up to

honour his memory by working in the community to try and help bring about changes for the better.